

Independent claim 36 is again rejected, along with claim 35, as being unpatentable over Japanese publication 57-116623 to Sugibayashi in view of U.S. Patent 5,225,264 to Kato et al. Reconsideration is once again requested. As noted in the Reply previously filed on June 15, 2004, and again during the interview, the Kato et al. patent discloses no cutting edge or cutting edge movement, and nothing in the figures or the English language summary of the Sugibayashi publication suggests that sealing is provided between a front edge of thin sheet 2 and either of the cutting parts 11.

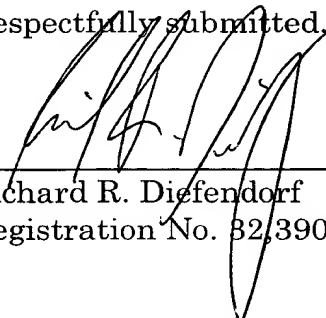
The Examiner's comments in section 6 on page 6 of the Office Action relating to Figure 4 of the Sugibayashi publication are noted. As discussed during the interview, however, Figure 4 of the Sugibayashi publication illustrates the presence of synthetic resin material between the edge of a cutting part 11 and the edge of the thin sheet 2. Figure 4 of the Sugibayashi publication, therefore, does not teach providing sealing between a cutting edge and a front edge of a decorative part as claim 36 particularly requires, and the rationale relied on by the Examiner to reject claim 36 is inappropriate. It was tentatively agreed during the interview that the rejection of claim 36 would be withdrawn, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 is patentable in its present form. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 36, and it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable as well.

Serial No.: 09/296,276

Should the Examiner have any questions after consideration of this response,
the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 29, 2004



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd